

Application No. 10/064,887  
Docket No. 13DV-14039  
Amendment dated February 2, 2004  
Reply to Office Action of October 3, 2003

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (currently amended): A process of depositing a ceramic coating on a surface of a component, the process comprising the steps of:

providing an evaporation source containing multiple different oxide compounds, at least one of the oxide compounds having a vapor pressure that is higher than the remaining oxide compounds;

suspending the component near the evaporation source;

projecting a high-energy beam on the evaporation source to simultaneously melt the oxide compounds of the evaporation source and form a vapor cloud of the oxide compounds ~~of the evaporation source~~ while preventing the vapor cloud from contacting and condensing on the component during an initial phase in which the relative amount of the at least one oxide compound in the vapor cloud is greater than the relative amount of the at least one oxide compound in the evaporation source; and then

allowing the vapor cloud to contact and condense on the component to form the coating during a subsequent phase in which the relative amount of the at least one

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oxide compound in the vapor cloud is approximately equal to the relative amount of the at least one oxide compound in the evaporation source, whereby the coating deposited during the subsequent phase has a substantially uniform distribution of the at least one oxide compound.

Claim 2 (original): A process according to claim 1, wherein the vapor cloud is prevented from contacting and condensing on the component during the initial phase by placing a barrier between the component and the evaporation source, and the vapor cloud is allowed to contact and condense on the component during the subsequent phase by removing the barrier from between the component and the evaporation source.

Claim 3 (original): A process according to claim 1, further comprising the step of preventing the vapor cloud from contacting and condensing on the component during a final phase in which the relative amount of the at least one oxide compound in the vapor cloud is lower than the relative amount of the at least one oxide compound in the evaporation source.

Claim 4 (original): A process according to claim 1, wherein the at least one oxide compound is selected from the group consisting of ceria, magnesia, strontia, barium oxide, lanthana, neodymia, gadolinium oxide, dysprosia, ytterbia and tantalum.

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Claim 5 (original): A process according to claim 4, wherein the evaporation source consists essentially of yttria, zirconia and the at least one oxide compound.

Claim 6 (original): A process according to claim 5, wherein the at least one oxide compound is ceria.

Claim 7 (original): A process according to claim 1, wherein the evaporation source consists essentially of yttria, zirconia and the at least one oxide compound.

Claim 8 (original): A process according to claim 1, wherein the at least one oxide compound is ceria.

Claim 9 (original): A process according to claim 1, wherein the evaporation source contains about 10 to about 20 weight percent ceria, the balance essentially zirconia stabilized by about 3 to about 8 weight percent yttria.

Claim 10 (currently amended): A process of depositing a thermal barrier coating on a surface of a gas turbine engine component, the process comprising the steps of:

depositing a bond coat on the component;

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placing the component in a coating chamber containing a single ingot comprising zirconia, yttria and at least a third oxide compound having a vapor pressure that is at least an order of magnitude higher than zirconia and yttria; and then

projecting an electron beam on the ingot to simultaneously melt the zirconia, yttria and the third oxide compound within the ingot and form a vapor cloud of zirconia, yttria and the third oxide compound while preventing the vapor cloud from contacting and condensing on the component during an initial phase in which the relative amount of the third oxide compound in the vapor cloud is higher than the relative amount of the third oxide compound in the ingot; and then

after the relative amount of the third oxide compound within the vapor cloud has dropped and then stabilized, allowing the vapor cloud to continuously contact and condense on the component to form the thermal barrier coating and so that the third oxide compound is uniformly distributed in the thermal barrier coating in an amount approximately equal to the relative amount of the third oxide compound in the ingot.

Claim 11 (original): A process according to claim 10, wherein after the amount of the third oxide compound within the vapor cloud has dropped and stabilized, the relative amount of the third oxide compound in the vapor cloud is approximately equal to the relative amount of the third oxide compound in the ingot.

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Claim 12 (original): A process according to claim 10, wherein the vapor cloud is prevented from contacting and condensing on the component during the initial phase by placing a barrier between the component and the ingot, and the vapor cloud is allowed to contact and condense on the component during the subsequent phase by removing the barrier from between the component and the ingot.

Claim 13 (original): A process according to claim 10, further comprising the step of preventing the vapor cloud from contacting and condensing on the component during a final phase in which the relative amount of the third oxide compound in the vapor cloud is lower than the relative amount of the third oxide compound in the ingot.

Claim 14 (original): A process according to claim 10, wherein the third oxide compound is selected from the group consisting of ceria, magnesia, strontia, barium oxide, lanthana, neodymia, gadolinium oxide, dysprosia, ytterbia and tantala.

Claim 15 (original): A process according to claim 14, wherein the ingot consists essentially of yttria, zirconia and the third oxide compound.

Claim 16 (original): A process according to claim 15, wherein the third oxide compound is ceria.

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Claim 17 (original): A process according to claim 10, wherein the ingot consists essentially of yttria, zirconia and the third oxide compound.

Claim 18 (original): A process according to claim 10, wherein the third oxide compound is ceria.

Claim 19 (original): A process according to claim 10, wherein the ingot contains about 10 to about 20 weight percent ceria, the balance essentially zirconia stabilized by about 3 to about 8 weight percent yttria.

Claim 20 (original): A process according to claim 10, wherein the thermal barrier coating has a microstructure of columnar grains.

Claims 21-29 (canceled)